

Statement by:  
**Kathleen McNamara**  
**Grants Administrator**  
**City of Waterbury**

On:  
**Raised Bill No. 5268**

Before:  
**Committee on Commerce**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2012**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and other distinguished members. I am Kathleen McNamara, City of Waterbury Grants Administrator, and it is my pleasure to appear before you as a representative of the Office of the Mayor.

Today, I would voice my support for Raised Bill No. 5268, "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for a Greenway Project." Such bonds would provide a grant-in-aid to the City of Waterbury for its greenway project, a 7.1 mile paved, multi-use trail along the Naugatuck River. This project has recently been recognized by Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar in "America's Great Outdoors: A Fifty State Report" as one of 100 most significant projects in the country.

The City is in Phase I design of the Greenway, which starts at the City's southern boundary with Naugatuck and proceeds north along South Main Street, a state road, which this project will improve and narrow. It is widely recognized, in numerous studies, that projects like these are catalysts to economic development in terms of quality of life; business attraction, increased property values and tourism. In Waterbury, the first phase will be in the most distressed area of the City - the South End. The City has targeted this corridor for economic revitalization and has received several EPA and DECD brownfield grants to clean up industrial sites along which and through which this greenway will be built. In 2010, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez visited the South End and applauded the City's efforts on this project, which not only promotes and supports property redevelopment, but links alternative transportation options to revitalized housing and an improved environment. The greenway will also be an important link to the Waterbury Train Station and a key component of our transit-oriented development efforts.

We seek state support of this project as we assemble the necessary funds for design and construction. The public enthusiasm for this project has been unparalleled in Waterbury. We appreciate your help on moving this project forward.